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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SA-E - Mr. Eddy
 FROM : SA-E - Mr. Klaus
 SUBJECT: German Scientists

REVIEWED BY Zook DATE 3/13/81
 DATE: August 21, 1946. R

EDM (or ADJUTANT) DATE
 TS AUTH. REASON(S)
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING: ☐
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 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. I have just been informed by Assistant Secretary Hilldring's office that in a meeting yesterday between Mr. Acheson and Mr. Gross, Deputy to Mr. Hilldring, Mr. Gross was authorized to approve the SWNCU proposal to admit under Army sponsorship up to 1,000 German specialists and their families on condition that the implications of the project be explained to the President for his clearance.

2. I do not have the document, but I am told that as submitted to Mr. Acheson it sets up as a standard of exclusion only whether the German specialist was an "active Nazi", or a "militarist", and it specifically admits into the country Nazi Party members who received awards for their scientific contributions to the German war effort--they are described as "nominal" Nazis, if nothing more "active" is shown against them.

I had recommended to Mr. Hilldring's office that an additional standard be whether the applicant is affiliated with any movement, plan, or organization seeking to restore German military potential. I had pointed out that the standard otherwise would be merely punitive, excluding only persons with a certain past; whereas we should be concerned with security dangers in the future from people who while they may never have been "active members of the National Socialist Party", or "militarists", whatever that might mean, would be repeating in 1946 what we know was done by German technicians in 1918 to profit from the lessons of their defeat in order to improve the technical bases of a new effort to restore German power and war potential. As a standard for CID investigators, the language proposed would mean merely that lists of Nazi Party members would be screened and all persons would be ruled admissible whose names did not appear on such lists, while with respect to the remainder the only issues of doubt would be as to what constitutes an "active Nazi". This document, I pointed out furthermore, would be taken as a

chart-r

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET 370001-0200

-2-

charter by the Army, so that no thorough investigation would be made of the participation of German scientists in current or future movements, and CID would not have any motive to investigate the existence of current movements among scientists. Unless the Army in Germany and in the United States undertakes full-blown thoroughgoing investigations of this character, this Government is unlikely to obtain this intelligence from any source at all, unless by pure accident.

3. I suggest that you may wish to inform Mr. Acheson of your views on this subject, should they coincide with mine. I am under the impression that no one has yet brought those views clearly to his attention. I have told Mr. Hilldring's representative that I am not insisting upon any particular wording and that he is free to make any improvements in language that he believes advisable so long as the thought is followed.

4. I enclose herewith a copy of my comments on a prior draft of the document, which I had sent to Mr. O'Sullivan of Mr. Hilldring's office.


Samuel Klaus

Enclosure.

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET 370001-0200